

REAR ADMIRAL DAROLD F. BIGGER

CHAPLAIN CORPS UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE

A native of Oregon, Rear Admiral Darold Bigger received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology from Walla Walla College in 1966 and a Master of Divinity degree (cum laude) from Andrews University Theological Seminary in 1970. After internship and pastoring churches in Idaho and Eastern Oregon, the Seventh-day Adventist church endorsed his ministry.

In 1978 he received a PhD in Pastoral Counseling from the School of Theology at Claremont, California. While completing his doctoral work he pastored in Southern California before moving in 1980 to become senior pastor of the Walla Walla College Church in College Place, Washington. He pastored that congregation until 1993 when he accepted a joint appointment to the Religion and Social Work faculties of Walla Walla College. He completed a Master of Social Work degree in 1995.

Commissioned in November 1974 as a chaplain in the U. S. Naval Reserve, Chaplain Bigger was first assigned to Chaplain Company 11-2 in Los Angeles then to Individual Readiness Unit 719 in San Bernardino, California. Since moving to Washington State he has served with three Marine Amphibious or Expeditionary Forces Religious units and as Commanding Officer of two of those units. He served as Staff Chaplain of Readiness Command 22 in Everett, Washington before being selected as the first Reserve Fleet Chaplain, U. S. Pacific Fleet in 1996. In September 1999 he became the Deputy Chief of Chaplains for Total Force with Additional Duties as Director of Religious Programs Officer for the Commander, Naval Reserve Force and Religious Ministries Officer for the Commander, Marine Forces Reserve.

Overseas Annual Training has included five assignments with the First Marine Air Wing in Japan, a Team Spirit exercise in Korea, and an assignment as interim Command Chaplain at Commander Fleet Activities in Sasebo, Japan. Two Annual Training assignments placed him at the Bureau of Naval Personnel updating the Reserve Chaplain Handbook and writing new instructions for reserve chaplain support of military funerals. At a Chief of Chaplains' office assignment, he helped redefine the Reserve Chaplain Flag billet. He has also completed the Reserve National Strategy and Decision-Making Course at the Naval War College.

He is authorized to wear the Meritorious Service Medal (two awards), Navy Fleet Marine Force Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal (two awards), Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon (three awards), and the Armed Forces Reserve Medal (with Mobilization device).